

Capital Has Largest Municipal Henneries and Hog Farms

WASHINGTON has gone into the chicken and hog-raising business. Within a few months it has built and is now operating the largest municipal henneries and hog farm in the world. Both plants are a part of the workhouse at Occoquan, Va., and are designed to become big contributors to the revenue-producing activities of that institution.

Following a long investigation and experiment, W. H. Whittaker, the builder and manager of Occoquan, which is the only workhouse farm in the United States, is preparing to teach the whole country something about the raising of chickens and hogs.

That he is likely to succeed is best evidenced by the fact that out of 1,000 chickens hatched this spring, half of which are of frying size, not one has died. This record probably never has been equaled in the history of the industry.

On the hog farm the litters have thrived equally well, and the sanitary methods employed are expected to prove

Washington Goes Into the Chicken and Hog Raising Business—Both Plants Are Part of Workhouse at Occoquan, Va., and are Planned to Become Big Revenue Producers—Supt. Whittaker Is Preparing to Teach the Whole Country Something About Raising Chickens and Hogs—Not a Death Among the First Thousand Chickens Raised. Barriers Against the Introduction and Spread of Cholera and Other Diseases—How the Stock Will Be Increased Each Year—The Breeds of Chickens and Hogs That Have Been Selected—How the Sanitary Pens and Henhouses Are Arranged—Buildings Constructed by Prison Labor.

that the process of thinning out the old stock will begin, and it is probable that the plan of adding 1,500 new birds each season will continue indefinitely. The hog plant will not be utilized to more than half of its capacity this year, but next season it is planned to

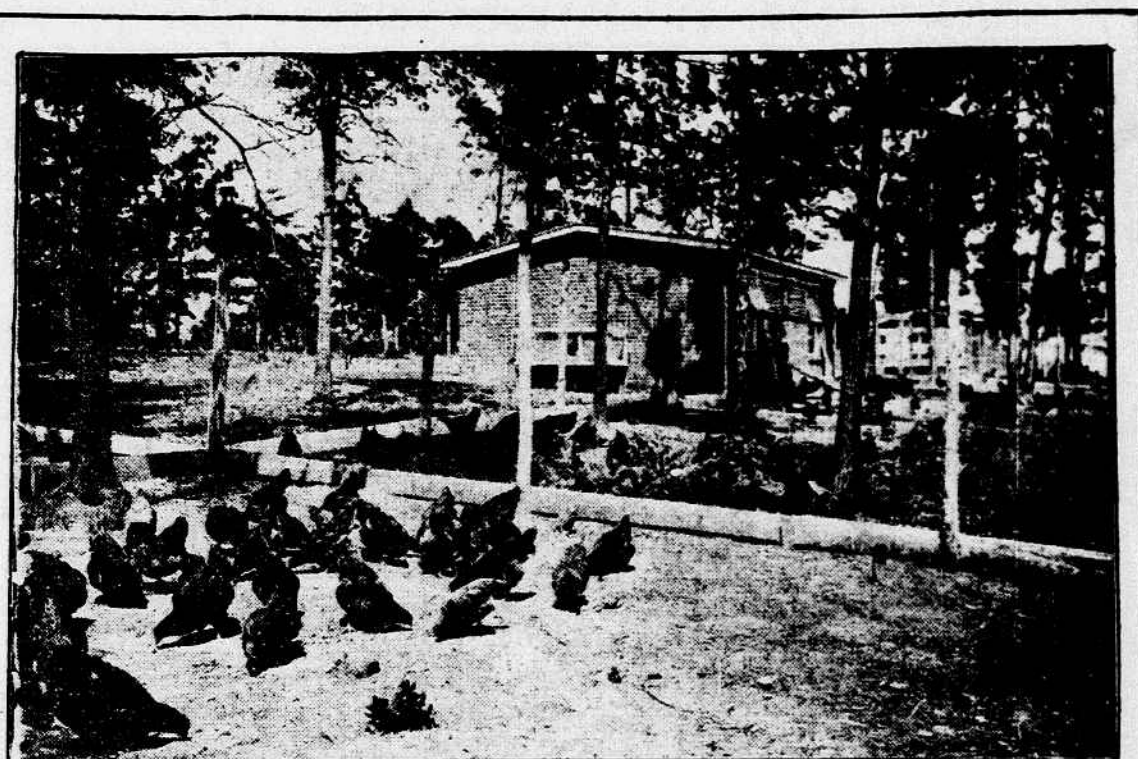
a site adjoining the workhouse property. It is pretty definitely settled that both institutions will be placed under one management, so that the total number of persons to be fed will be doubled. Work on the reformatory has commenced and will be concluded

manufacturing, ship-building and chicken-raising were some of the activities inaugurated to meet temporary conditions and furnish the experience for more lasting and valuable improvements. In each line of endeavor the workhouse had installed a subordinate with whom he worked out each problem presented. Where these officials have proved capable of developing with the institution they have been retained, and where they have failed to make progress they have been supplanted.

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A CORNER OF THE CHICK YARDS, IN WHICH THERE ARE A THOUSAND LAYERS.

incubators are kept constantly in operation. There also are nests for sixty setting hens, all of which are in use. Forty-eight-hour-old chicks are removed from the incubators and placed in the brooder. Inside this building there are thirty pens, each six by twelve feet. Through small openings the chicks may go into outside pens, which extend fifty feet from the building.

The ten brick hen houses are sixteen by twenty-four feet each, and occupy a total of twenty acres. Each house divides a two-acre run, so that a system of crop rotation can be followed. In these fields peach and plum trees have been planted, and such crops as will afford good forage and ensilage will be cultivated.

The plant occupies well-drained ground, is afforded the proper amount of sunlight and shade, and altogether is thoroughly equipped for meeting the extensive demands that will be made upon it. The equipment and the careful feeding and handling methods employed by Mr. Crockett explain how it has been possible to raise 1,000 chickens to the frying-size point without loss of one.

Probably the most distinctive feature of the Crockett method is that no chick is given water until he is six weeks old. The chick is permitted to drink buttermilk instead. His earliest diet consists of rolled oats and bran, and by degrees he is fed pin-head oats and a mash consisting of alfalfa, bran, middlings and cornmeal. Six feedings a day are given.

While the chicken farm has been growing the evolution of the workhouse hog pens has been going forward by leaps and bounds. Concrete pens, where the porkers are fed and washed; sterilized slop and dry sleeping houses are the basic principles in the operation of this plant which are counted upon to keep it immune from disease and make it a highly successful industry.

The hog farm occupies thirty acres

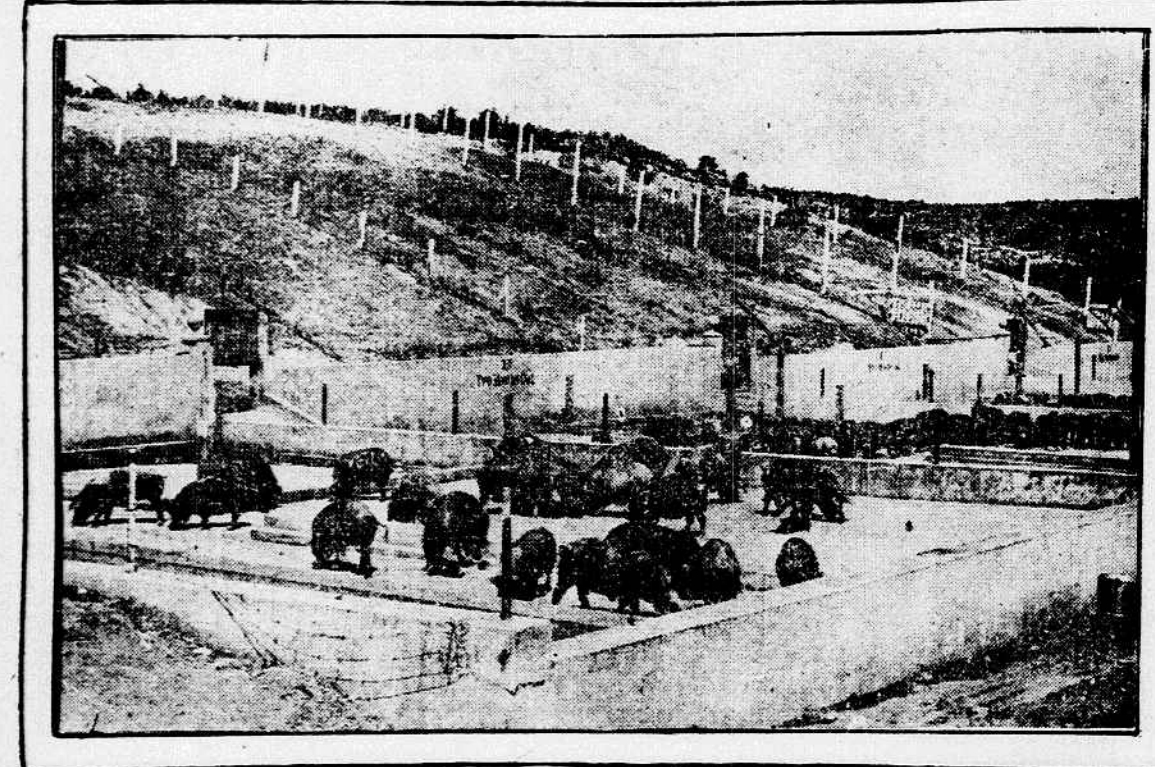
or more. Five concrete pens, 60x50 feet, and each with trough capacity for 200 heads, have just been built, and a sixth shortly is to be added. In these inclosures the sows are fed sterilized swill, which is prepared in a small building especially constructed for the purpose. Here, also, they are given baths on hot days, and the fifth and objectionable odors of the average pig sty are absolutely lacking.

On the summit of a hill above the pens are located sleeping houses with brick floors. Each pen also is equipped with a four-acre run, which provides sufficient forage for the stock. Sweet clover and timothy are the principal crops cultivated.

Separate accommodations have been provided for the brood sows, which are kept in pens 60x100 feet. There are fifty such pens, each equipped with a small shelter house. Here the litters are given every care until the pigs are large enough to be turned into the general pens.

Should the farm be visited by an epidemic of cholera or other disease, it would be possible by means of the large acreage to quickly isolate the stock, but Mr. Whittaker is confident that the sanitary system which he has worked out reduces the danger of cholera to a minimum.

As in the case of the henneries, the hog pens and buildings were constructed by prison labor, and at little cost to the municipal government. Both plants will be relied upon to save the District several thousand dollars a year, and it is expected that they will throw new light upon the profits to be made in chicken and hog raising where scientific methods are employed.



PIGS IN THE CONCRETE FEEDING PENS.

an impenetrable barrier against the introduction and spread of cholera or other disease.

Although not operating to their full capacity, the henneries are expected to accommodate, eventually, 5,000 laying hens, which will be the normal number kept, while the hog pens will furnish about 2,000 animals for slaughter annually.

It is estimated that 1,500 hens will be raised this year. The stock will be increased by a similar number next year and during successive years until the total number reaches 5,000. After

raise at least 1,500 hogs, of which 500 will be slaughtered for consumption at the workhouse and the remainder sold. Berkshire and Yorkshires are the breeds selected for the short-term farm, while after a careful elimination test the Rhode Island red has been retained as the most desirable breed to be produced on the chicken farm.

Not only will these industries be big factors in feeding the prisoners and 100 officers at Occoquan, but their value will become even more apparent with the founding of the District reformatory for long-term prisoners on

in about four or five years. If the 5,000 hens supply more eggs than are required by the two prison establishments, the excess stock will be turned over to the municipal hospital and other District government institutions located in Washington.

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BROODER HOUSE WITH A CAPACITY OF FIVE THOUSAND CHICKS.

Every Day in the Year a Flag Day in Uncle Sam's Army and Navy

WHEN the patriotic citizen arouses himself, morning and drags forth from its place of storage the Stars and Stripes, to be hung in front of the house in commemoration of the flag's birthday, he probably little realizes that the honor he is paying the ensign, and even more, is rendered to it every day in the year. Sundays, holidays and just plain work days, by those in Uncle Sam's military service.

Unless that citizen has done duty with either branch of Uncle Sam's regular military forces or have served at camp with the militia or aboard a battleship with the naval militia he has not had a real taste of what honor to the flag means.

No matter how far away from the seat of government or from the continental territory the flag may be, honors are paid just the same. It is a solemn honor, sometimes accompanied with the blast of a band, other times with only the blast of the trumpet and the ruffles of the drum. Then again it may be to the heavy boom of a saluting gun which pays the honor, with all the rest, hand and bugle and drum, thrown in.

Even in the far-off garrisons at the American legation at Peking, China, where the United States has a military garrison guard prepared for eventualities, the honor is paid daily as the Stars and Stripes are raised to the staff. On the ships of the Asiatic fleet there is a series of honors paid twice daily. In the Pacific fleet and the Atlantic fleet all the vessels salute slightly. In the Philippines, at posts on the isolated islands, not to mention Alaska, where the halcyons may be frozen to the staff, the honor is paid just the same.

With these daily honors it is not surprising that the flag is put on the staff at sunrise or in the day at 8 o'clock.

THE HORSE DOES NOT EAT HORSE CHESTNUTS OR MINT

IN a number of the streets and parks of Washington the horse chestnut tree bears its pretty leaves and showy flowers and yields its fruit, or nuts. All persons are familiar with the horse chestnut and some of them know it as a sovereign remedy for rheumatism if carried in the proper pocket. It is a curious fact that the horse does not know the horse chestnut by that name. He has no more acquaintance with the horse chestnut than he has with the hickory nut or the cocconut, and he does not know the horse chestnut as well as he knows the peanut, because there are horses with appetites so democratic or unrefined that they will eat peanuts.

There is really no connection between the horse and the horse chestnut and there are no persons who are familiar with the horse chestnut. The nearest approach to such a sound that a horse will make is to neigh or nicker and whinny, and the normal horse will yield to such emotions only on special occasions.

No man ever saw a horse render himself mellow, or talkative, or unsteady in his gait, or unconscious, from the use of horse mint. Nobody ever has a horse who would neglect his business and make himself unfit for work because of an uncontrollable desire to have near a bed of horse mint. There is really no connection between horses and horse mint, and why any man should have named this pungent plant horse mint is beyond the understanding of any horse. Offer a bunch of horse mint to any horse and he will show indifference.

And all this brings up the question of the horse laugh. No horses laugh in that rude, senseless and usually idiotic way. That practice is found only among men. Horses may have a sense of humor, but they never express themselves in a horse laugh. Neither do they giggle. The nearest approach to such a sound that a horse will make is to neigh or nicker and whinny, and the normal horse will yield to such emotions only on special occasions.

Many horses are well bred, and they show it so clearly in their conformation, manners and performance that they do not have to go about bragging of it. Any horse that would demand a large number of latrine latrine latrine latrine removed had helped to haul a forage wagon or a kit wagon in a particular way, or whose great-grandfather won a Brooklyn handicap, would be laughed out of the stable. The other horses would not stand for it.

No Matter How Far From the Seat of Government, Honors to the Stars and Stripes Are Paid Just the Same—An Honor Accompanied by Blast of a Band, Blare of a Trumpet or Ruffles of a Drum—On Board the Warships—Care of the Flag—Morning and Evening Ceremonies at the Army Posts—The Various Sizes of Flags Made for Army Use—"Colors" in the Navy—When Naval Vessels Dip their Flags.

they are required to face the ensign and render a hand salute at the end.

Take the daily honors at any one of Uncle Sam's numerous garrisons and military posts, for instance. They start off with a bang at sunrise, when the big saluting gun announces sunrise, or "bumps the sun up," as the regular calls it. As the gun is fired the buglers or field music sound reveille, which is the solemn alarm clock. The reveille is sounded where there is no band, but where there is a band the gun goes off at the first note of the march.

In the evening the garrison usually is lined up for the parade and review, the field music sounds "retreat," at the

navy the Stars and Stripes are flown at the mainmast. If the salute is to some foreign fortification, as when a ship is visiting a foreign country, the flag of the country is raised during the firing of the salute, and the Stars and Stripes returned there after the salute.

Aside from the honor paid the flag while it is being raised, it is guarded and handled in the evening also. The passage from its resting place in the guardhouse to the headquarters staff, just before the reveille, is a non-commissioned officer and two privates armed, proceed to the commander of the guard, procure the ensign, and then march to the staff, where the colors are

the staff or entangled with the halcyons.

At the last note of the retreat the big gun goes off, and then the flag starts slowly down the mast, either to the music of "The Star Spangled Banner" or "to the colors." The soldier who pulls down the ensign in the evening also is charged with the duty of seeing that no part of the ensign touches the ground at any time. When the flag is at the bottom of the mast the two privates see that it is neatly folded in the triangular fashion required in the

down. Every man on deck at the time of sounding the colors, both morning and evening, is required to face the staff, and at the conclusion to render the hand salute.

In the navy when an officer or enlisted man comes up the gangway to the quarter deck or "over the side," to use naval parlance, he is required to face aft and render the hand salute to the colors. If either an officer or enlisted man emerges outside of a hatchway on the quarter deck he also renders a hand salute to the colors.

While a ship of the navy flies her flag at the main staff, when she is at anchor, when at sea she flies the flag at the gaff on the highest part of the ship, so that any vessel may easily see the colors long before the identity of the ship itself can be established. During the storm flag, of nine feet by six feet, is also displayed both day and night.

Vessels of the navy also dip their colors when passing a foreign port. The bugler sounds taps while the vessel is passing the salute, the colors are dipped and the bell is tolled. There are different kinds of flags, or rather sizes of flags, used on different occasions. The garrison flag is the largest. It has a fly of thirty-eight feet and a hoist of twenty feet, which means that it is thirty-eight feet long and twenty feet wide. This flag is furnished only to special posts and is hoisted only on holidays and special occasions.

It is one of such types of flags that is flown daily from the central mast in front of the Union station and this is the only place in the country where the majestic emblem is flown every day. It is the regular post flag, which is nineteen feet fly and ten feet hoist.



"FIELD MUSIC" RENDERING HONORS TO THE FLAG.

last note of which the gun is fired. Then, if a band is present, "The Star Spangled Banner" is played while the flag is slowly lowered, reaching the foot of the mast as the last note of the piece is played.

While the army regulations provide that the flag shall always be displayed at the time of firing a salute, they specifically prohibit the dipping of the ensign by way of salute or compliment. It is lowered for no one, and is half-staffed only in the event of a death. However, in the navy the flag is dipped to passing vessels as a salute and as a compliment. Usually it is in answer to a compliment paid by some other vessel. During the firing of a salute in

securely attached to the halyards, one is formed by the non-commissioned officer in command and who marches in the middle bearing the flag. The detail then returns to the guardhouse, where the colors are turned over to the commander of the guardhouse.

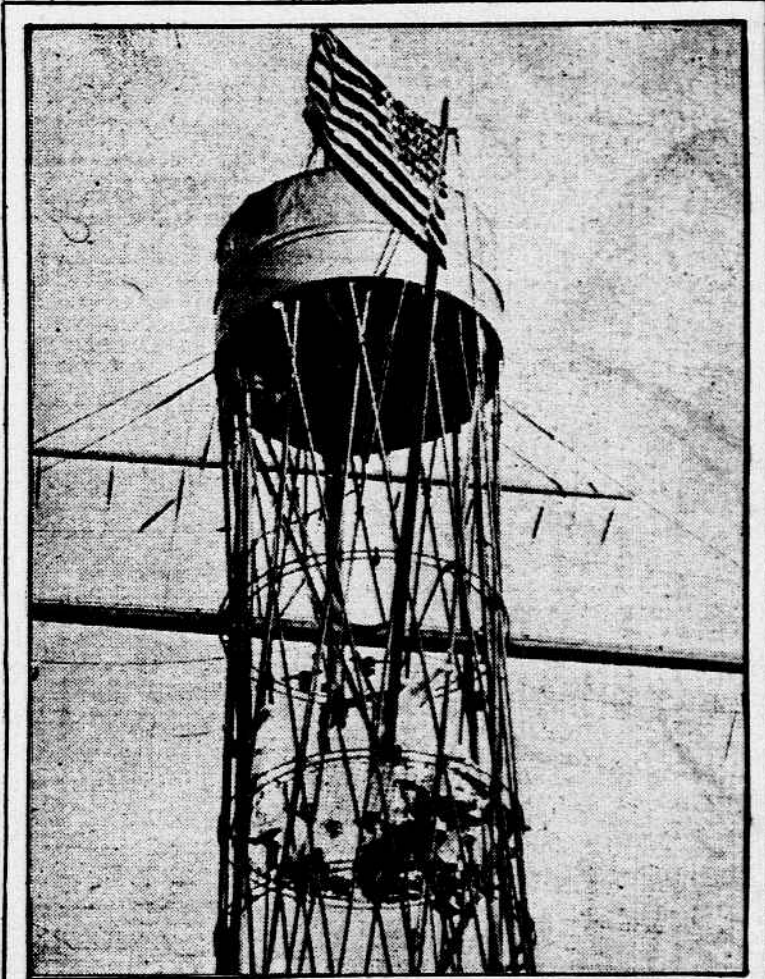
In the navy formal honors to the flag are rendered only while the vessel is in port. Then the colors are hoisted on the quarter deck, which is the after part of the ship. The Union Jack is flown in the bow when the ship is at anchor.

"Colors" in the navy are sounded at 8 o'clock in the morning, and if the ship happens to be in a foreign port the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the ship's band is followed by the playing of the national song of the country in which the ship is visiting. The evening colors are sounded at sun-

set. This detail completed, the guard is formed by the non-commissioned officer in command and who marches in the middle bearing the flag. The detail then returns to the guardhouse, where the colors are turned over to the commander of the guardhouse.

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"COLORS" FLY HIGH AT SEA, AT THE VERY TOP OF THE BASKET MAST.

This is furnished by the War Department to all garrison posts and is flown every day in pleasant weather. The regular post flag, of nine feet by six inches fly and five feet hoist. This

SEASON OF THE CHIGGER

THE chigger is in the woods and in every other place in the country. He is watchfully waiting—very watchfully waiting—for anything in the flesh-and-blood line that walks his way.

The toughest man has no terror for him. Walk around in heavy leather boots and thick yarn stockings, a woolen shirt and buckskin trousers, and he will attack you. Having got you in his clutches he will prospect your anatomy until he finds a palatable place to rest, and to his mind the most desirable locations seem to be an ankle, a knee joint, an armpit or an elbow joint.

But if he should fail to serve himself with one of these, he will make a hearty meal, and perhaps a merry meal to him, off of your hand. It may be that to himself he says, "I must eat to live, and it is chigger nature, just as it is human nature, to provide means with the best food the market affords."

Immediately after taking up a strategic position on you he begins to intrude. Very often he will seize you and seek to make himself secure from attack and observation by crawling into the pores of the skin or the larger sweat tubes. In some folk the tubes are smaller and crooked than in other persons, but this, though it may delay the progress of the chigger, will not discourage him. The more he finds necessary to dig, the more industriously he will dig. The fact that you are not a matter of very lively concern to the chigger. He will ignore your objections.

Another fact to be borne in mind by men and women is that the chigger, like other troubles, does not come singly but in battalions; his name is legion. Where one of them is others are. He is a gregarious fellow and is more apt to attack in mass than in thin lines. Here and there may be a lone bandit among the chiggers, but generally he is a gangster and has his ruffian band close beside him. In his articles of war there is no such thing as fair play. If you should speak to him about Geneva or The Hague conventions or about the unconstitutionality of cruel and unnatural punishment he and his fellow-assailants would laugh at you.

Millions of chiggers are in the country about Washington, and with expectant eyes and hopeful appetites are watching all striders, loiterers and picnicers. They are hanging on the under-arms of the leaves of trees and shrubs ready to pounce on you as you pass. They are in ambush in the grass and sweet herbs of the fields especially along the streams and along the edge of woodland. If they cannot bite you on the foot they will seize you by the neck or hit you in the head. The chigger does not overlook a bet.

The chigger is not confined to the District of Columbia. He is a citizen of the world and he extends his operations throughout all countries. He believes in big business. His idea of the human race is that it was created for his benefit. He is the "crossberry bug" in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and under other names he carries on his butchery trade in all the countries of Europe. He lives also in the West Indies, throughout Central and South America and in the Orient. There is one thing which the chigger will not endure. It is sulphur. Here is the hint for mankind. It is man's ally or weapon against the cruel and insidious mite of a chigger. Give him sulphur and he will perish. One need not bother about furnishing him with brimstone. Just hand him sulphur, if you will dust a little flower of sulphur into your shoes you can go unafraid and unarmed among millions of these dreadful creatures. And remember, too, that if after picnicking in the woods or fields you will take a wash after getting home you may draw the chigger before he has had time to dig his trench.